

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

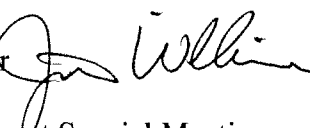
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November 24, 2009

TO: Department Heads
Department Personnel Officers
County Personnel Officers
Employee Organizations

FROM: Jim Williams, Administrator 

SUBJECT: Actions by Board of Trustees at Special Meeting
Open Enrollment Schedule Revised

Yesterday, the EUTF Board of Trustees took actions designed to: (1) give employees sufficient time to evaluate their options and submit their open enrollment forms; (2) provide EUTF staff sufficient time and additional resources to complete processing of open enrollment forms prior to the effective date of the enrollment changes; and (3) set the record straight for EUTF employee-beneficiaries and the public.

A brief explanation of each of the Board's decisions follows:

1) Extension of Open Enrollment deadline to December 7.

Employees now have one (1) additional week to review their choices, get more information and submit their enrollment forms to their personnel offices.

2) Delay of effective date of changes resulting from Open Enrollment to February 1, 2010.

Current plans and plan enrollments will remain in effect through January 31, 2010, with the new 80/20 plan and all enrollment changes taking effect on February 1, 2010. The EUTF staff will have an additional month to process forms, so that when the new plan and changed enrollments go into effect on February 1, 2010, insurers and plan administrators will have the necessary eligibility files and payroll deductions will reflect the correct amounts. I am confident that this extra time, combined with additional staff resources will enable the EUTF staff to complete work on the open enrollment.

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3) Authorizing hire of temporary workers to address EUTF workload issues.

A one-month extension alone is not sufficient to ensure timely processing of enrollment forms. At the Governor's suggestion, the Board of Trustees has authorized me to hire temporary workers to assist with the current backlog and with open enrollment processing. If the EUTF is able to bring on temporary help, and combined with assistance that has been promised by insurers and plan administrators, the work can be completed by February 1, 2010.

4) Setting the record straight.

The press statement authorized by the Board of Trustees, along with back up documentation made available to the press, can be accessed at the EUTF web site at <http://eutf.hawaii.gov>. The EUTF is confident that the facts speak for themselves and the goal of the press statement is to enable EUTF employee-beneficiaries to make informed decisions based on accurate information.

On behalf of the EUTF, thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

c: Board of Trustees